

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1 (Currently Amended). An audio reproduction method implemented by an audio reproduction apparatus, the method comprising:

obtaining, at the audio reproduction apparatus, an audio data file,

wherein the audio data file has a data structure that includes including audio data, character data ~~indicating~~ defining a shape of a character, and motion data ~~indicating~~ defining motion of the character having the shape specified by the character data;

generating, at the audio reproduction apparatus, an image of said character having the shape specified by said character data; and

displaying the generated image of said character correspondingly to reproduction of said audio data in accordance with the motion indicated by said motion data,

wherein said image of said character is altered and displayed at a coordinate position at a specific time in audio reproduction.

2 (Canceled).

3 (Previously Presented). An audio reproduction method according to claim 1, wherein said image of said character has a three-dimensional shape, and said method further comprises:

displaying the image of said character from a viewpoint based on a predetermined input operation indicating the viewpoint.

4 (Currently Amended). An audio reproduction apparatus comprising:
means for retaining an audio data file,

wherein the audio data file has a data structure that includes ~~including~~ audio data, character data ~~indicating~~ defining a shape of a character, and motion data ~~indicating~~ defining motion of the character having the shape specified by the character data;

means for reproducing the audio data retained in said means for retaining;

means for generating an image of said character having the shape specified by the character data; and

means for displaying the image of said character generated by said means for generating correspondingly to reproduction of said audio data by said means for reproducing in accordance with the motion indicated by said motion data,

wherein said image of said character is altered and displayed at a coordinate position at a specific time in audio reproduction.

5 (Canceled).

6 (Previously Presented). An audio reproduction apparatus according to claim 4, wherein the image of said character has a three-dimensional shape, and the audio reproduction apparatus further comprises:

means for indicating a viewpoint toward the image of the character having the three-dimensional shape, wherein

based on the viewpoint, the means for generating generates said image of said character as seen from the viewpoint.

7 (Previously Presented). An audio reproduction method according to claim 1, wherein said motion data is described in VRML (Virtual Reality Modeling Language).

8 (Previously Presented). An audio reproduction apparatus according to claim 4, wherein said motion data is described in VRML (Virtual Reality Modeling Language).

9 (Previously Presented). An audio reproduction method according to claim 1, further comprising:

reading out the audio data and the character data from a storage medium at a same time.

10 (Previously Presented). An audio reproduction method according to claim 1, further comprising:

separating the character data from the audio data file.

11 (Currently Amended). An audio reproduction method according to claim 1, further comprising:

detecting an identifier in the audio data file indicating a presence of the character data within the audio data file.

12 (Previously Presented). An audio reproduction method according to claim 9, wherein the reading does not include reproducing an image signal.

13 (Previously Presented). An audio reproduction apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

means for reading out the audio data and the character data from a storage medium at a same time.

14 (Previously Presented). An audio reproduction apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

means for separating the character data from the audio data file.

15 (Currently Amended). An audio reproduction apparatus according to claim 4, further comprising:

means for detecting an identifier in the audio data file indicating a presence of the character data within the audio data file.

16 (Previously Presented). An audio reproduction apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the means for reading does not reproduce an image signal.

17 (Currently Amended). An audio reproduction apparatus comprising:

a data reader to read an audio data file,

wherein the audio data file has a data structure that includes including audio data, character data ~~indicating~~ defining a shape of a character, and motion data ~~indicating~~ defining motion of the character having the shape specified by the character data;

a reproducing unit to reproduce the audio data;

a processor to generate an image of said character having the shape specified by the character data; and

a display unit to display the image of said character generated by said processor correspondingly to reproduction of said audio data by said reproducing unit in accordance with the motion indicated by said motion data,

wherein said image of said character is altered and displayed at a coordinate position at a specific time in audio reproduction.